Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 04247 052247Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 CA-01 HA-05 H-02
/029 W
----------030194 052251Z /62
O 052152Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7827

UNCLAS BOGOTA 4247

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC (MISSING AMERICANS)
SUBJ: MISSING AMERICANS IN COLOMBIA

REF: STATE 100759

1. THE FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON PARA ONE REFTEL: THE EMBASSY SEES FOUR CATEGORIES OF MISSING AMERICANS IN COLOMBIA: (A) "NORMAL"; (B) "COUNTER-CULTURE DROP-OUTS"; (C) "POSSIBLE CRIMINAL INVOLVEMENT"; AND (D) "PURPOSEFUL DISAPPEARANCE".

2. GROUP (A) REFERS TO THOSE AMCITS WHO FAIL TO REPORT TO RELATIVES OR CLOSE FRIENDS ON DESIGNATED DATES AT SPECIFIC PLACES OR IN A PRE-ESTABLISHED MANNER (FOR EXAMPLE: BY MAIL AFTER A LONG ABSENCE). THIS GROUP USUALLY TRAVELS AND LODGES IN A CONVENTIONAL MANNER, HAS SCHEDULED DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS, AND REGULARLY OFFERS CLUES RE THEIR WHEREABOUTS. FOR THE MOST PART, POSTS IN COLOMBIA ARE SUCCESSFUL IN LOCATING AND ASSISTING THESE AMERICANS RAPIDLY.

3. MISSING AMERICANS IN GROUP (B) ARE GENERALLY UNDER 30 YEARS OF AGE, SOMETIMES TRAVELLING ALONE BUT OFTEN IN COMPANY OF SPOUSES AND CHILDREN, AND USUALLY AFFILIATED TO ONE OF THE NEWER, MYSTIC-ORIENTED SECTS. THESE CITIZENS DO NOT TRAVEL OR LODGE IN CONVENTIONAL MANNER, AND SELDOM LEAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BOGOTA 04247 052247Z

CLUES OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS. POSTS IN COLOMBIA UTILIZE THEIR CONTACTS WITH LOCAL LEADERS OR MEMBERS OF KNOWN SECTS TO DETERMINE THEIR POSSIBLE PRESENCE IN COLOMBIA OR, FAILING THIS, WITH LOCAL IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS. POSTS' SUCCESS IN LOCATING MISSING AMCITS IN THIS CATEGORY IS ERRATIC. WHILE MANY SUCH CASES ARE LOCATED WITH CONSIDERABLE EFFORT, OTHERS ARE NOT SATISFACTORILY CONCLUDED. TWO MAIN REASONS ACCOUNT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

FOR THIS: (1) IT IS NOT NORMALLY KNOWN TO RELATIVES/FRIENDS EXACTLY IN WHAT COUNTRY THEY MAY BE, AND (2) THE MISSING PARTIES IN THIS CATEGORY ARE VERY RELUCTANT TO LET EMBASSIES OR CONSULATES KNOW OF THEIR PRESENCE IN THEIR DISTRICTS AND OF THEIR SPECIFIC WHEREABOUTS. AT TIMES, THEY PURPOSELY WISH TO AVOID BEING LOCATED BY RELATIVES OR FRIENDS.

4. GROUP (C) IS OF MORE RECENT DEVELOPMENT. THESE CITIZENS USUALLY ARE BELIEVED, OR REPORTED TO HAVE DEPARTED FOR COLOMBIA IN NON-COMMERCIAL VESSELS, PRINCIPALLY IN SMALL, PRIVATE MODERN AIRCRAFT, OR IN LARGER, VINTAGE AIRPLANES. MAKE, MODEL AND REGISTRATION NUMBERS OF THESE AIRCRAFTS, PLACES WHERE FLIGHTS ORIGINATED AND THEIR FINAL DESTINATION, AND FLIGHT PLANS AND ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO LAND ARE PRACTICALLY NEVER AVAILABLE. FURTHERMORE, STATESIDE INQUIRING PARTIES ARE MOST OFTEN RELUCTANT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT MISSING PARTIES, AND IN GENERAL ARE UNCOOPERATIVE IN MATTERS REGARDING NEEDED INFORMATION AND FOLLOW UP PROCEDURES. (POSTS HAVE DETERMINED MANY TIMES THAT INQUIRING PARTIES ARE UNKNOWN AT STATESIDE TELEPHONE NUMBERS GIVEN TO SEARCHING POSTS). THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE BELIEVED TO BE ENGAGED IN ILLICIT INTERNATIONAL TRADE, MAINLY NARCOTICS AND POSSIBLE ARMS. POSTS SUCCESS IN LOCATING THESE MISSING AMERICANS IS VERY SMALL, AS ONLY THOSE WHO ARE ARRESTED IN COLOMBIA OR ELSEWHERE, OR WHO RUN INTO OTHER DIFFICULTIES ARE EVER IDENTIFIED. IT IS KNOWN THAT SOME AIRCRAFT WITH
UNCLASSIFIED

AMERICAN CREWS CRASH DURING LANDING OR TAKE OFF OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA'S MANY NORTH COAST CLANDESTINE AIRFIELDS. IN SOME CASES, LOCAL GROUND CREWS CONNECTED WITH NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS REPORTEDLY QUICKLY BURY REMAINS OF AIRCRAFTS AND BODIES WITH MODERN HEAVY MACHINERY IN ORDER TO PREVENT DETECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AIR PATROLS, WHICH MAKES SUBSEQUENT LOCATION OF SITE AND IDENTIFICATION OF CORPSES AND CRAFTS IMPOSSIBLE. WOUNDED SURVIVORS OF SUCH CRASHES ARE BELIEVED TO BE NURSED UNTIL RECOVERED AND THEN ASSISTED OUT OF COLOMBIA BY ILLEGAL MEANS. THEIR SUBSEQUENT RETURN TO THE US IS NOT REPORTED TO COLOMBIAN POSTS BY INTERESTED PARTIES FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

5. THE LAST GROUP (D) INCLUDES THOSE WHO WISH TO BE BELIEVED DEAD BY RELATIVES, AND/OR FRIENDS, AND/OR US LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. POST IS PRESENTLY INVESTIGATING TWO SUCH CASES. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ONE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO SIMULATE HIS OWN KIDNAP. THE OTHER IS THOUGHT TO HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO APPEAR ASSASSINATED, INCLUDING SOPHISTICATED PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK OF HIMSELF IN A LOCAL MORGUE AND ISSUANCE OF DEATH CERTIFICATE BY LOCAL OFFICIALS.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

6. PARAGRAPHS TWO, THREE AND FOUR REFTEL ARE SUBJECT OF
A SEPARATE CABLE. ASENCIO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BOGOTA04247
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0086
Format: TEL
From: BOGOTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780591/aaaaczcx.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 47e1cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SCS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 100759
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2785878
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MISSING AMERICANS IN COLOMBIA
TAGS: CASC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/47e1cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014